



Red Tail Flyer

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Show and tell



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Army Col. Gary Braddock, 372nd Engineer Battalion commander, looks over a Predator during a joint dinner between Air Force and Army officials July 31. The dinner, held at one of the Predator hangars, brought the two services together to share experiences and take pictures of a Predator, F-16 and convoy gun truck static display.

Balad Learning Resource Center expands services, plans future

Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones
332nd AEW/Public Affairs

Balad's Learning Resource Center began DANTES testing Tuesday and plans for a new facility are well under way.

It has taken parts of the last two AEF rotations to get the LRC up and running with the necessary computers and testing materials.

"Education services are part of the Services package, one thing we try to bring to every location," said Maj. Mason Pigue, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander. "Our first priorities (when establishing a base) are things like food and lodging followed by recreation and fitness. After that, we can focus on things like education."

In addition to DANTES testing, the LRC also offers the ACT, Professional Military Education correspondence courses, career field certification tests and CDC exams.

"I can even administer university exams if they are coordinated with the school," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Baldwin, 332nd ESVS, NCO in charge of education services. "About the only thing I can't do is sign tuition assistance forms."

Currently, DANTES testing takes place Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting at 8 a.m. and Thursdays starting at 10

p.m. in the movie tent. But by next rotation, the base should break ground on a new 837-square meter LRC. The new facility will house morale computer and telephone centers, a library, multimedia room, testing center, research lab, conference room and the education services office.

"Our mission is to take care of our Airmen," said Maj. Pigue. "It's a huge morale issue. The LRC allows Airmen to continue their education and keep up with PME at a deployed location."

Many Airmen deploy to the desert with the goal of improving their diet or physical fitness. The LRC lets Airmen work toward another personal goal—education.

"Education should be a goal of everyone," said Sergeant Baldwin. "Hopefully, a lot of deployed Airmen can knock out some credits or get a start on their education while they're here."

"My dad always told me 'education is one thing nobody can ever take away from you,'" said Maj. Pigue. "That's why it's so important."

Members wanting to schedule a DANTES test or other education services can send an e-mail to Sergeant Baldwin or call 458-1896.

For more information on the education center, visit the ESVS website at <http://blab-web.aor-centaf.af.mil/332%20svs/educationcenter.htm>.

Ten simple words to live by in a combat zone

Col. Scott Goodwin

332nd EOG commander

Shortly before deploying I had the opportunity to sit with a group of young officers and discuss my leadership philosophy.

One officer asked if there was a set of guiding principles I use.

The answer I gave can be summed up in ten simple words we're all familiar with as Airmen.

Our core values are an outstanding foundation for anyone to build upon. They are especially important in a deployed environment and even more critical in combat operations.

Integrity first

Integrity is first for a reason. Without it, nothing else matters. Integrity means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. Integrity means doing your duty all the time, every time. It means telling the truth even if it will reflect negatively on you. Every pilot depends on the ground crews to perform their tasks correctly and properly document all their work.

Ground crews and the next pilot rely on the previous pilot to accurately record the mechanical condition of the aircraft after each flight. Our command and control system cannot function without accurate, timely reports.

Imagine what could happen if a sentry neglected his duties at his post. A lapse of integrity on the part of a single individual could have disastrous consequences for all of us. In short, integrity is the cornerstone of the profession of arms.

Service before self

Each Airman in a deployed environment should instinctively understand this precept. To place service before self implies that you willingly subjugate your personal desires, goals, and even safety to carrying out the mission and ensuring unit success. Service implies sacrifice. We endure family separation, post-

ponement of personal plans, and disruption of civilian careers in the case of our Guard and Reserve comrades.

Service before self means we accept hardship, personal risk, and even the ultimate sacrifice if the mission demands it. General Robert E. Lee eloquently captured the essence of this core value when he said you can never do more than your duty and you should never wish to do less.

Excellence in all we do

Every individual is integral to the mission. Regardless of what your job is, you contribute to the mission.

See CORE, Page 3

Take a minute to reflect...

Capt. Eric Feil

332nd ECONS commander

When was the last time you took a look around here at Balad Air Base? When was the last time you really took the time to think about what's going on here and your role in it?

Most people have a tendency to go about their daily business without realizing that they are part of something historic until later in life. I'd like to take a few minutes of your time this week to ask you to take a look at yourself and your peers. What do you see?

I see a team of hard working, hard charging Airmen that will do just about anything to accomplish the mission and get the job done.

I see a tough group of individuals, working in austere conditions, which have bonded into a championship team.

I see people from all over the world and from every conceivable background working hand-in-hand to ensure success in our common endeavor. I hope you see the same thing. If you don't, maybe it's time to take a step back and look at the big picture and where you fit in to it. It's time to realize that you're an integral part of Team Balad.

The success that we, as a wing, share is a direct result of your hard work. It's time to take pride in what you've already accomplished and what you continue to accomplish daily.

Most members of AEF 9/10 are more than half way through the deployment. Many already know who their replacements are and have already made contact with them.

There's definitely light at the end of the tunnel, but we aren't there yet. Now is a good time to take a look at the efforts that you've given and to be proud of what you've helped accomplish. It's also time to recharge yourself and give that final push to ensure that this remains a successful deployment for you personally and for the rotation as a whole.

Regardless of where you came from and what you do at home, you are now part of the 332nd AEW, a wing with a proud heritage.

We are an expeditionary wing performing daily operations with the bare minimums. We endure frequent attacks, the heat, separation from family and friends, and all the other miscellaneous hardships that come with a deployment to a wartime environment.

Despite these limitations that we face day in and day out, the mission never falters. Do you know why? It's because of the hard work of individuals like you throughout the wing.

Rarely in your career will you have the chance to serve in such a rewarding and historical capacity as you are at this very moment.

Whether you work in a warehouse, an office, the flight line, a cockpit, or outside the wire, you are making a difference and your contributions all add up to a successful mission.

Everybody, from the lowest ranking airman to the wing commander, is making contributions to the success of the wing.

We're all working long days and it's sometimes hard to realize the impact that we're having in the present. It's easy to go "home" after a long day and unwind, without giving ourselves credit for a hard day's work.

When was the last time you took a minute to acknowledge your own importance to the success of our mission? I'm asking you to do it now. Go ahead and take a minute, look around.

What do you see now?

Secretary of Defense: Why we fight in Iraq

Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense



More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the President are deeply grateful.

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues – none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

On September 11, 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies. The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against other civilized societies. This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent people's heads to try to intimidate great nations. They have murdered citizens from many countries – South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others – hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people.

Theirs is an ideology of oppression and subjugation of women. They seek to create radical systems that impose their views on

others. And they will accept no armistice with those who choose free systems.

They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.

Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the UN about his weapons programs. He ignored every one.

Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified. The U.N. resolutions had called for "serious consequences" should Saddam not comply. He did not.

The President issued a final ultimatum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start.

But most importantly, your fight – and ultimate victory – against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic – and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.

CORE

Continued from Page 2

If that weren't the case, you wouldn't be here.

The best way to ensure the wing meets its mission objectives is for every single member of the team to perform their tasks to the best of their ability.

General George Patton is widely reported to have said, "Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser." At the very least, George C. Scott made that comment in the movie Patton. Regardless, this sentiment holds true. We are members of the world's preeminent air and

space force. We play to win and if you are not willing to put forth the effort to win, to deliver excellence day in and day out, you need to join a different team.

The Air Force Core Values truly are more than ten simple words that fit neatly on a bumper sticker. They're more than a catchy slogan to put across the bottom of our official letters.

If you reflect on their meaning and understand what it takes to translate them into action, it's obvious they are principles by which you can guide and measure your conduct. They are just as applicable in garrison and deployed and will serve you equally as well after your military career.



Got a Story?

Know someone in your unit that has a unique story, hobby, or have a message everyone needs to know?

Call The Red Tail Flyer at 458-1064 or e-mail:

redtailflyer@blab.af.mil



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTE

"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked public health questions. Submit questions to public.health@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Q: We have pigeons roosting in our facility. How can we keep them away and what's the best way to clean up their droppings?

A: First, keeping pigeons from roosting in a building is challenging. Exclude the intruders by sealing all entry points.

Whenever possible, remove light fixtures and block areas such as ledges where birds will roost. Ultrasonic devices and chemical repellents are ineffective for keeping birds away. Visual deterrents (e.g. balloons, flags, lights, and replicas of hawks and owls) and noises (e.g. gun shots, alarms and gas cannons) may scare birds away, but generally only temporarily.

More permanent repellents include mechanical anti-roosting systems consisting of

angled and porcupine wires made of stainless steel. These systems may require some occasional maintenance to clear nesting material or other debris from the wires.

When it comes to cleaning up small amounts of bird droppings, it's best to minimize stirring it up to the point that it becomes airborne and possibly inhaled. Instead of shoveling or sweeping dry, dusty material, carefully wetting it with a fine spray of water will help prevent it from becoming aerosolized.

Once the material is wetted, it can be collected in double, heavy-duty plastic bags, a 55-gallon drum, or some other secure container for disposal. Place the material in secured storage until incineration at the medical incinerator (scheduled to be installed this fall).

When managing moderate amounts of bird droppings, please contact 332nd EMEDS Preventive Medicine flight at 458-1709 for a site evaluation before proceeding further.

Meet your neighbor



Staff Sgt. Amy Cunningham

Home station: Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Unit: 332nd EOSS

Arrived in the AOR: May 31

Family: Most of my family is in Kentucky. My sister, Christy, was just promoted to Chief Petty Officer in the Navy.

Hobbies: Sketching, painting, hiking and camping

How do I contribute to the mission? I produce 300+ weather briefings per month supporting perimeter defense, cargo resupply and urgent medical evacuation missions. I also provide weather observations and airfield forecasts for mission planning.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? The people I work with.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? I miss my church and friends.

AAFES workers cited for heroism after rocket attack

DALLAS -- Four Army and Air Force Exchange Service civilians have been recognized for heroism in the line of duty while serving at the Camp Anaconda post exchange in Iraq.

The employees are Jack Lauff from AAFES headquarters in Dallas; Barbara Brown from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla; Regina Koenig from Fort Drum, N.Y.; and Irene Panter from Hill AFB, Utah. They were working in the store June 16 when a rocket struck near the exchange causing numerous injuries.

A rocket round that exploded directly in front of the main store building was one of three 127mm rockets that hit the camp.

The four assisted the wounded, "without regard to their own safety or personal risk," according to the certificate presented by Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, the 13th Corps Support Command commanding general.

After the rocket hit, all four AAFES employees scrambled to administer first-aid and help bring casualties and store customers to safety inside the hardened post exchange building.

Three Soldiers were killed and 23 servicemembers and civilians were injured as a result of the attack.

According to General Chambers, some of the casualties owe their recovery to the AAFES associates.

"The ability to reach and take care of people is a human quality not everyone has," he said.

Currently, there are more than 450 AAFES associates in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom who volunteer to deploy to places like Afghanistan and Iraq for at least six months.

"It is difficult to comprehend the commitment and courage of AAFES volunteers who go to contingency operations," said AAFES' Commander Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost. "Like the troops, deployed AAFES associates live and work under a constant threat in order to deliver the exchange service benefit to dangerous locations throughout the world."

AAFES operates 54 contingency locations for troops in operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Pest Management

332nd ECES unit keeps critters in check



Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Cohen Young

SPRAY: Senior Master Sgt. Burhl Hartin, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, sprays insecticide at the base of a Tuskegee Town tent Tuesday.

BIRDS: Senior Airman Staci Barratt, 332nd ECES, looks for birds at a pond near Balad's airfield Tuesday.

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
332nd AEW/Public Affairs

Keeping pests under control at an Air Force base is a serious business.

Senior Master Sgt. Burhl Hartin, a pest management specialist from the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, recalls an incident at his home base, the 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville, Fla.

"One time we had an F-16 hit a wild pig that ran across the flight line," he explained. "(The impact) sent the plane off the runway and into the woods. The pilot survived the accident, but the plane wasn't so lucky."

Although wild pigs aren't much of a threat to aviators here at Balad, Sergeant Hartin said there are other animals that pose a threat to pilots as well as other base residents.

One of the most deadly threats to pilots here, the 15-year pest control veteran explained, is birds inhabiting a pond near the flight line.

Even though most birds don't weigh more than a few pounds, they are still capable of taking down an aircraft if ingested into a jet intake or rotary blade.

"Bird hazards have existed since the beginning of air travel and can cause a considerable amount of damage and occasional loss of human life," explained Master Sgt. William Ellis, 332nd Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron airfield manager. "To reduce the number of bird strike occurrences, it is imperative for pilots to be aware of the possibility and seriousness of bird strikes."

To combat the threat, Sergeant Hartin and his partner, Senior Airman Staci Barratt, closely monitor the area surrounding the flight line and document the flight patterns and flock activity of the different species of birds. The documents are then forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and Kirtland Air Force Base to be studied for the Bird/wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard, or BASH program.

According to Airman Barratt,

who is deployed here from the 177th Fighter Wing in Atlantic City, N.J., there are more than 400 different species of birds in Iraq.

Currently, Airman Barratt has tallied up a few more than 20 species of birds since she arrived here in May. The first species she noticed after arriving here was the Indian Roller.

"There is one pair (of Rollers) that always hang on the same tree branch out here," Airman Barratt explained as she scanned the pond with her binoculars.

The 18-month Guard veteran ran into the "couple" so often that she decided to give the pair names.

"I named them Betsy and Bert," she said with a laugh.

If Betsy, Bert, or any other bird endanger the lives of pilots, Sergeant Hartin said the team uses different types of tactics to scare the birds away - the most common being the "shotgun scare away gun," that just makes a loud noise.

"Our aim is to protect the flight line, but also do our best to protect the birds as well," Sergeant Hartin

explained.

In addition to monitoring birds around Balad, the duo also helps keep other pests under control.

Sergeant Hartin said the two also check the area for mosquito larvae and signs of wild dogs and cats. They also respond to "sightings" from units around the base.

On one occasion, Sergeant Hartin remembers getting a call from the 332nd Mission Support Group headquarters about bats in the ceiling.

"I had to pull bats out from above the ceiling panel using makeshift chopsticks," he said with a laugh.

In another instance, Sergeant Hartin got called out to investigate reports of a white owl residing in Hangar 30.

Regardless of the situation, the former canine handler said the goal is to relocate the animal with minimal amount of force.

If we can do it in a less harmful way, we do it," he said. "It isn't beneficial for us to kill (wildlife), so we try to keep everything in their place."

Shadow program educates Airmen about deployed mission

Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

332nd AEW/Public Affairs

Junior Airmen in the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron get a chance to see what its like being at the top enlisted rank through a new program started by a chief master sergeant here.

Every Saturday, Chief Master Sgt. Dave Yungvirt, the 332nd ELRS chief enlisted manager, takes four Airmen from his unit and shows them the daily activities of a chief master sergeant in the Air Force.

Chief Yungvirt, whose deployed here from United States Air Forces Europe Headquarters at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, said his "Chief Shadow Program" also shows eager Airmen how their jobs contribute to the unit's overall mission.

"The Airmen get to hang out with me and the (332nd ELRS) commander to see how the decisions in our unit are made," he explained. "We also show them

how a logistics readiness squadron works in a deployed setting."

Chief Yungvirt said the program kicks off with lunch alongside the 332nd ELRS commander, Maj. Randy Warring, and himself for an icebreaking session followed by an immersion briefing that is typically given to distinguished visitors.

The chief said the briefing shows the Airmen how they fit into the unit as a whole.

After the briefing, Chief Yungvirt talks to the Airmen about how the Air Expeditionary Force Center selects individuals for deployments.

"A lot of the Airmen are out here on their first deployment, so I thought it was important to show them how they are tracked through the AEF Center and how the AEF system works," he said.

Senior Airman Paul Watson, a 332nd ELRS aerial port journeyman deployed for the first time, said he learned a lot about the AEF

system through the program.

"It was very informative," said the Reservist deployed from the 81st Aerial Port Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base's 315th Airlift Wing. "The class helped me understand more clearly how people get (deployed) in and out (of the area or responsibility). Each base has certain jobs that require specific skill levels and Air Force specialty codes to accomplish the mission."

One of the highlights of the program is when Chief Yungvirt takes the Airmen out to different units in the squadron (fuels, air terminal operations center, supply, etc.) where they are briefed by either a shop chief or, the Airmen, if it happens to be their unit.

"When they get to their duty section they get to explain their job," Chief Yungvirt explained. "This is the part when most Airmen get excited - talking about their job and how they contribute to the mission."

At the end of the day, the chief

takes the Airmen to a staff meeting with the commander where they provide feedback and observe how decisions are made by the commanders and senior enlisted members.

Chief Yungvirt said the opportunity to talk with commanders and chiefs as a junior Airman was something he never had at the same point in his career.

"I had to be a technical sergeant before I got my first opportunity to sit down and talk face to face with a chief master sergeant," he said.

So far, 16 Airmen have completed the program.

Senior Airman Rahsha Stowers, a traffic management journeyman deployed from the 5th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., recently completed the program and recommends the concept to other units.

"The shadow program is a great way to not only tell Airmen what's going on in their squadrons but also show them," she said.

Letters from the homefront

(Editor's note: The following letters were sent on behalf of students at the Ridgecrest Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Puyallup, Wash. Letters have not been edited from original format).

Thanks for all that you do. - Justin

Dear service-person,
Please return safely. Please know that everyone wishes for you to come home safely and live in peace again. - Anonymous

Dear service-person,
Thank you for fighting for our country. I'm so grateful that you are sacrificing your time and life. It's because of you that we can live free and not worry about anything. Thanks again. - Hanna

Dear Service Person,
Through out the generations there has always been those that are strong enough to fight for the freedoms which we hold so dear to our hearts. Thank you for your sacrifice. - Shane

Troops,
Thanks for all you do. You really change our country and show other countries how patriotic we are. Thank you for protecting our country. You



inspire so many people. You are a perfect example of unselfishness. Thanks for being leaders to our great country. - Beth

We are proud of you! We know it is difficult to be away from your loved ones. Our prayers are with you daily, that you'll be safe and return home soon. - Anonymous

I really appreciate all that you do for my country. I wish you luck and be safe. You guys rock! - Nick

Dear troops,
Thanks for the awesome work. Hope everything is going well for the war. Your fellow proud American, Maxwell

Dear serviceman,
Thank you for everything you are doing to support and defend our country. You show everyone the patriotism in our country. Thank you for putting your lives on the line to protect us. It means a lot to us and we appreciate it. Thanks again. - Kinsey
Dear servicemen/women,
This sounds impersonal, but what can you do? Thank you so much for all you do. You have made, and are still making so many sacrifices for the millions of nameless faces back home. I cannot imagine the strain and hardship you must be in, but I know God loves you and will bless you for your service. I've been taught that when you are in the service to your fellow man, you are only in service to God, and I believe this to be true. Keep the faith and hope always. It can give you strength at the times you struggle the most. My gratitude runs deep. Thank you, thank you, thank you. - Elizabeth

Dear U.S. troops, or I mean troop,
You guys are the greatest. You are the bravest people ever. I hope you do the best you can and be all that you can be. We are glad you are fighting for us and hope you are safe. We pray for ~~you~~ ~~and hope you are safe.~~ and wish you could be home with your families. But make the best of where you are. - Geoff

New layer of protection



Air Force/Sue Sapp

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Airman 1st Class Kelley Deppen demonstrates the MCU-2A/P gas mask fitted with a "second skin" liner that forms the face piece of the mask. Made of a rubber-type material, the second skin is an overlay for the mask which extends the time it is effective in a hostile area.

Defense briefs

Air Force ROTC closing detachments next summer

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- Air Force ROTC officials are closing detachments at the University of Akron in Ohio, and Grambling State University in Louisiana next summer.

In the summer 2007, officials will close AFROTC detachments at the University of Memphis in Tennessee; University of Cincinnati in Ohio; Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark; and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The closures are a result of the small number of officers produced by the detachments during the past 10 years, said officials.

Airman pleads guilty to rape charge

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. -- A general court-martial hearing for an Airman charged with rape ended here July 26 with a guilty plea, a sentence of 42 months confinement and dishonorable discharge from the Air Force.

A charge of rape was preferred against Airman Basic Darwin M. Paredesillescas May 19 for violating Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The crime was allegedly committed on base on or about Feb. 8 against a female active-duty Airman.

Bird strike caused F-15 crash

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. -- A bird strike caused an F-15E Strike Eagle's engine to fail, forcing the crew to eject during a training mission May 6 near Callaway, Va., according to Air Force investigators.

The pilot and weapons system officer ejected safely and were not injured.

The \$42 million aircraft, assigned to the 335th Fighter Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., crashed in a field and was destroyed upon impact.

According to an Air Combat Command accident investigation board report released Aug. 2, investigators determined a large black vulture was ingested into aircraft's right engine, causing the engine to fail and starting a fire.

Iraqis assuming more control in security matters

Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Several shifts in authority over the last weekend demonstrate that Iraqis are assuming more control within their country.

Pilots arriving at Baghdad International Airport will notice a distinct lack of Aussie accents after multinational forces passed control of the country's largest civilian air-traffic-control center back to Iraqi officials.

Royal Australian Air Force personnel have spent the past six months training Iraqi con-

trollers to safely operate the country's vital air hub, according to a news release from Multinational Force Iraq.

The commander of Australian forces in the Middle East, Brigadier Peter Hutchinson, said the handover is an excellent example of the Iraqi people grasping new opportunities and working quickly to re-establish their country. "Baghdad's air-traffic controllers have approached their role with an eagerness that can only be shown by people looking to make a positive change," Hutchinson said.

"The RAAF personnel who

have spent the past few months working alongside the new team are very impressed with their dedication, enthusiasm and skills ... we're leaving Baghdad International Airport in not just good hands but the very best hands, because it is back in the hands of the Iraqi people," he added.

In another example of Iraqis stepping up, the Iraqi army activated its seventh battalion with the graduation of 723 recruits during an Aug. 1 ceremony at the Kirkush Military Training Base, east of Baghdad. The army ultimately will consist of 27 battalions,

nine brigades and three divisions, military officials said. The new Iraqi army is to be complete by early 2005.

Also, the Iraqi Intervention Force formally took responsibility for security of Abu Dashir, in the Rashid district of Baghdad, from the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division July 31.

The IIF takes on missions that are beyond the capabilities of the Iraqi National Guard, including arresting high-profile terrorists or large cordon- and-search operations.

Officials said this is the first time an IIF unit has taken control of a sector.

T-Town Chapel Schedule

Sundays:

Protestant Religious Education, 8 a.m.
Protestant Worship, 9 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Catholic Mass, 10:30 a.m.
LDS Sacrament meeting, 7 p.m.
LDS S.S., 8 p.m.

Mondays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.
Catholic Discussion Group, 8 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Catholic Mass, 11 a.m.
Purpose Driven Life, 8 p.m.

Thursday

LDS Study Group – 7 p.m.

Friday

Catholic Mass – 5:30 p.m.
Women's Fellowship – 7 p.m.

Saturday

Catholic Reconciliation/Confession – 12:15-12:30 p.m., or appointment
Catholic Mass – 12:30 p.m.
Protestant Communion – 7 p.m.

Daily:

Band of Brothers (Men's Fellowship), 8:30 p.m.
Christian Prayer, 9 p.m.

Know what this is?



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed

Each week, the Red Tail Flyer staff will take a photo from around Balad. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block. The first person who sends in the correct answer wins a prize and will get their name printed in this publication. Congratulations to Lt. Col. Tommy Haynes, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Director of Staff, who correctly identified last week's Kevlar helmet chin strap snap.



Sustainer Movie Schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today

3 p.m. - Catwoman
6 p.m. - Catwoman
9 p.m. - Catwoman

Saturday

3 p.m. - Around the World in 80 Days
6 p.m. - Catwoman
9:30 p.m. - The Terminal

Sunday

3 p.m. - Catwoman
6:30 p.m. - The

Terminal

9 p.m. - Around the World in 80 Days

Monday

3 p.m. - Garfield
6 p.m. - Around the World in 80 Days
9 p.m. - The Terminal

Tuesday

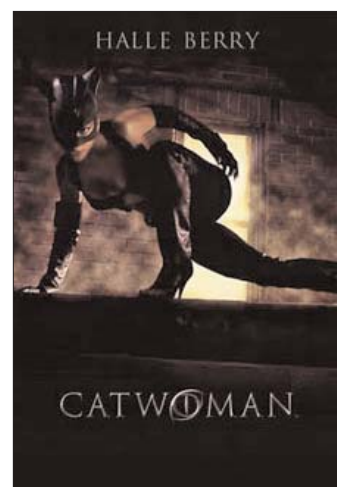
3 p.m. - Catwoman
6 p.m. - Garfield
8:30 p.m. - Troy

Wednesday

3 p.m. - The Terminal
6 p.m. - Catwoman
9 p.m. - Garfield

Thursday

3 p.m. - Around the World in 80 Days
6 p.m. - The Terminal
9 p.m. - Catwoman



332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

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